OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM

Alberta
WORKERS' HEALTH, SAFETY AND COMPENSATION

Additional copies of this program review may be obtained by writing:

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To the Members of the Legislative
Assembly of Alberta

It is with great pleasure that I submit the first program review of the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Heritage Grant Program. This review summarizes the first two years of program operations, from April 1, 1981 through March 31, 1983.

We believe that the many projects funded through this program will contribute significantly to ensuring a safe and healthful working environment for Albertans.

Bill W. Diachuk
Minister responsible for
Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation

MEMBERS OF GRANT STEERING COMMITTEE FROM APRIL, 1981 – MARCH, 1983

ROBERT ORFORD, M.D. (Chairman)
Executive Director, Occupational Health Services
Occupational Health and Safety Division.

N.S.J. BLOOMER (Appointed February/83)
Assistant Deputy Minister, Support Services Division
Alberta Labour

MICHAEL BOYD
Manager, Occupational Health and Safety Branch
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JOHN DEFIR
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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM
(APRIL, 1981 — MARCH, 1983)

Introduction

The Occupational Health and Safety Heritage Grant Program, a $10 million investment of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund (Capital Projects Division), was established in April of 1981, as an eight year program under the auspices of the minister responsible for Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation. The Grant Program, which was designed to complement services of the Occupational Health and Safety Division, encourages the participation of employer and worker organizations, educational institutions, researchers and other private sector groups in responding to health and safety concerns. Awards from this program ensure that a variety of innovative projects, including both short and long term activities, will be directed toward the prevention of work-related accidents and ill health.

Objectives

The Occupational Health and Safety Heritage Grant Program supports research, training and education activities which seek to prevent accidents and ill health resulting from employment, and to promote the health and well-being of Alberta workers through improved working conditions.

To meet these objectives, the Grant Program offers awards in three major categories: research, education, and conferences. In the research area, the Grant Program supports scientific activities designed (a) to increase understanding of occupational health and safety problems and (b) to develop and assess new strategies and approaches to address these problems. Funding in the education category sponsors the development and evaluation of new and innovative educational programs, and the training of individuals in areas which emphasize the recognition, avoidance and control of hazards related to work. For the conference area, funds are used to assist organizations in planning workshops or conferences which focus on issues related to health and safety on the job.

Program Operation

The program is administered through the Research Branch of the Occupational Health and Safety Division. The program officially commenced in April, 1981, and a full staff complement of three was achieved in March, 1982. The staff employed through the Grant Program include a program administrator, research officer and secretary.

An interdepartmental steering committee is responsible for making recommendations on project funding to the minister responsible for Workers' Health, Safety and Compensation through the Managing Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Division. The minister is responsible for final approval of all projects.

Formal terms of reference for the steering committee were established early in 1981. Committee membership includes three senior representatives from the Occupational Health and Safety Division and one senior representative from each of six other provincial government departments and agencies. The committee met 16 times in the first two years of program operation to make recommendations on grant proposals and funding criteria.

Program Activities

During the first year, emphasis was placed on the development of funding guidelines and administrative procedures in order to ensure that appropriate criteria were used to assess proposals, and that relevant background information was provided to members of the steering committee. During the second year of program operation, most effort was devoted to the formal review of grant applications and the administration of approved projects.

A total of 111 grant applications, requesting more than $12 million, was submitted to the Occupational Health and Safety Heritage Grant Program during the period April 1, 1981 through March 31, 1983. Fifteen applications were approved for funding in the first year and 22, in the second year, (Table I). Brief summaries of these approved projects are provided in Table II. Of the remaining 74 applications, 63 were turned down and 11 were still under review in the year ended March 31, 1983. More detailed information concerning expenditures during the two year period is provided in Table III.

Formal critical reviews, carried out by specialists in appropriate subject areas, were obtained for each application. During the first year, 78 formal reviews were requested and received; the number of reviews increased to 93 in the second year. In addition to the formal reviews, division research staff also reviewed and provided critical comments on each proposal.

Some of the projects funded during the first two years of the program have been completed, and many are nearing completion. Grant program staff follow through all completed projects in order to assess the final results and the potential benefits of the work. In the immediate future, emphasis will be placed on the review and publication of project reports and results. Copies of all completed reports will be available through the Occupational Health and Safety Division Library.

TABLE I

NUMBER OF APPROVED PROJECTS

	1981/82	1982/83
	No. Projects Approved	**No. Projects Approved**
Research Grants	4	7
Education Grants	7	11
Conference Grants	4	4
	15	22

Total Number of Projects Approved: 37

TABLE II

PROJECTS APPROVED BETWEEN APRIL 1, 1981 THROUGH MARCH 31, 1983

RESEARCH PROJECTS

An Inventory of Specialists and Others Involved in Occupational Hygiene Activities in Alberta: R. Sloan ($12,000). Completed.

To provide an inventory of persons and companies involved in various occupational hygiene activities in Alberta.

An Exploratory Survey of Factors Influencing Farm Accidents in Alberta (Phase I): W. Harrell ($8,422). Completed.

To develop a survey instrument to collect information from persons involved in farming to identify individual behaviours and characteristics which may be associated with farming accidents. The project will include: gaining access to respondents, preparation of instruments, pretesting, and development of sampling procedures.

An Exploratory Survey of Factors Influencing Farm Accidents in Alberta (Phase II): W. Harrell ($25,022). In Progress.

To conduct the survey developed in Phase I (above). The research will increase understanding of those factors contributing to and related to accidents experienced on farms in Alberta, and will result in recommendations on how the findings can be incorporated into farm safety education programs.

Underground Position-Location Using Low Frequency Magnetic Induction: Alberta Speleological Society ($1,000). Completed.

To complete field testing of an experimental communication system which can operate through rock. The research will contribute to enhancing mine rescue operations.

Cooperative Industrial Safety Professional (Phase I): Nisku Medical Services ($16,500). Completed.

To do the preliminary research for a feasibility study of using the services of a safety professional on a cooperative basis. The project will determine which companies will participate in the pilot study.

Cooperative Industrial Safety Professional (Phase II): Nisku Medical Services ($51,671). In Progress.

To conduct the pilot study developed in Phase I (above). This project will assess the feasibility of providing a cooperative safety service through the private sector and if successful, may serve as a prototype on which similar programs could be modeled throughout the province.

Bee Sting Hypersensitivity: J. Day ($20,000). In Progress.

To establish an effective and inexpensive procedure to assess individuals' sensitivity to honeybee stings and to determine how best to manage those persons at risk with venom immunotherapy. The research focuses upon Alberta beekeepers and their reactions to bee stings in an attempt to tailor immunotherapy programs to the individual.

Occupational Health and Safety in the Police Work Place: D. Milloy ($6,580.25). Completed.

To identify the sources and symptoms of psychophysiological stress encountered in the police workplace. A major benefit of this project is the methodological assessment of existing studies which has the potential value of making researchers in this field more aware of problems in past research and pertinent concerns for new research.

Detection of Metabolites Due to H_2S Exposure: J. Donini ($22,850). In Progress.

To define reliable pathological markers for H_2S exposure which should assist in identifying H_2S accident victims and ultimately lead to better prevention. Indirect benefits from the exchange of information on laboratory techniques will likely result through contacts among the applicant, divisional staff and the local academic community.

Recycling and Disposal of Chemical Wastes: Chemistry Department, University of Alberta. ($18,900). Completed.

To review, test, develop, and document methods of waste chemical disposal and recycling to ensure that these methods are safe for chemical laboratory and storage workers and are environmentally acceptable. The aim of this research is both to develop safe methods of chemical disposal and recycling and to provide an Information Centre through which such information can be made available to the public in Alberta.

Feasibility Study for Safe Rig Tripping Concept: Inveco ($58,119). In Progress.

To conduct a feasibility study of the potential mechanization of the pipehandling activities of rig work in order to enhance safety conditions on the rig floor.

EDUCATION PROJECTS

Development of an Occupational Hygiene Technologist Program: Mount Royal College ($60,000). Completed.

To develop an Occupational Hygiene Technologist Program at Mount Royal College.

Program Development: Occupational Hygiene Technology Program: Mount Royal College ($37,000). In Progress.

To retain the expertise and knowledge acquired to date in the Occupational Hygiene Program at Mount Royal College and to allow the development of advanced courses in occupational hygiene.

Student Safety Education Project: County of St. Paul ($10,400). Completed.

To test the feasibility of incorporating general safety information into the school curriculum to increase student knowledge and influence the development of positive safety attitudes.

Occupational Health Nursing Program Off-Campus (Calgary): Grant MacEwan Community College ($51,800). In Progress.

To allow Alberta nurses working in occupational health nursing positions in the Calgary area to take the Occupational Health Nursing Certificate Program at a cost equivalent to on-campus rates at Grant MacEwan Community College.

Base Friction Modelling Training Program: Coal Mining Research Centre ($45,900). Completed.

To produce educational material including video and slide demonstrations of a base friction model which demonstrates the mechanics of deformation and failure around single and multiple openings in bedded rock and a manual titled "A Guide to Strata Mechanics in Underground Coal Mines Using Base Friction Modelling" for use in training mine personnel in basic principles of strata mechanics.

Training in Occupational Dermatology: K. Barber ($7,000). Completed.

To assist an Alberta dermatologist in further developing his expertise in occupational dermatology at the St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in London, England.

Underground Mine Foremen's Training Package: McIntyre Mines Ltd. ($141,522). In Progress.

To develop and produce a training program for the purpose of preparing potential mine foremen in the province for the written examination required for qualification as a mine foreman in Alberta, and to provide the knowledge and understanding required for safe operation of a mine operation.

A Play — "Rigs": Theatre Network ($25,300). Completed.

To produce a play which deals with the lure, dangers, hardship, and rewards of life on the oil rigs. A main theme is the necessity for recognition, avoidance, and control of hazards related to work in the oil fields. The play will carry the message regarding the hazards of rig work to oil field workers, their families, and the general population.

A Utilities Training Film — "The Operators": Calgary Utility Coordinating Committee ($23,000). In Progress.

To produce an educational film designed to prevent overhead and underground utility contacts which will be used in safety seminars, utilities' training programs, and by other appropriate jurisdictions.

A Safety Film — "Never Say Die": Filmwest ($29,879). In Progress.

To support television broadcast of a motivational safety film aimed at increasing the awareness of the family and friends of oil patch workers as to the importance of those workers reporting to the job site unimpaired and physically and mentally well rested.

Alberta Trucking Association Safety Program: Alberta Trucking Association ($35,000). Completed.

To prevent trucking accidents through safety promotion and the development of safety training programs throughout the Alberta trucking industry.

Health and Safety Training for Labour Representatives: Alberta Federation of Labour ($369,315). In Progress.

To train a core group of occupational health and safety instructors who will in turn conduct courses for workers which will enable them to identify and effectively combat health and safety hazards in their workplace.

Industrial Eye Protection Film: Alberta Optometric Association ($4,000). In Progress.

To assist in the production of a film designed to enhance employee acceptance of safety eyewear and compliance with industrial eye protection programs.

Occupational Safety Certificate Program Course Development Project: University of Alberta/Faculty of Extension, ($28,700). In Progress.

To prepare a detailed outline, special reference materials, and instructors' manuals for the safety and hygiene courses in the Occupational Safety Certificate Program. This will contribute to the quality and consistency of course content.

A Safety Attitude Film — "You Bet Your Life": ACCESS ($26,500). In Progress.

To produce a television program with the aim of increasing the worker's awareness of how values, attitudes and behaviour can increase or decrease one's risk of illness or injury.

Safe Work Practice Training Program: Oilfield Contractors Association ($87,643). In Progress.

To develop an audio-visual safety training program designed to instruct supervisors and workers in the awareness and control of hazards in various aspects of oilfield work.

Health, Safety and Accident Prevention (Phase I): Alberta Construction Association ($3,500). Completed.

To revise and further develop a proposal for an educational project aimed at improving health, safety and accident prevention in the construction industry.

Health, Safety and Accident Prevention (Phase II): Alberta Construction Association ($150,000). In Progress.

To develop a safety training program aimed at increasing construction workers' awareness of proper safety procedures which should ultimately lead to a decrease in job-site accidents.

CONFERENCE AWARDS

World Health Organization Conference. Netherlands Occupational Hazards in Hospitals: J. Darcangelo ($2,744). Completed.

To provide support to enable a Calgary nurse to attend a conference on Occupational Hazards in Hospitals. Information gained at the conference will be shared with the nursing profession, government officials and other interested parties.

International Conference on Occupational Lung Disease: J. Bachynski ($2,000). Completed.

To assist an Alberta radiologist in attending a conference on occupational lung disease which will provide a forum for update and exchange of new scientific information. The information gained will be shared with others in a seminar upon his return.

Symposium in Occupational Health: A.B. Jones ($3,000). Completed.

To assist the Division of Continuing Medical Education (University of Alberta) in bringing in three speakers from outside the province for the two day symposium which will facilitate the exchange of ideas and scientific information.

Dust in Coal Mines: Coal Mining Research Centre ($2,000). Completed.

To assist in sponsoring a seminar during which the results of recent research work related to dust in underground coal mines will be made available to people involved in coal mining.

1982 CSSE Professional Development Conference: Canadian Society of Safety Engineers ($24,458). Completed.

To assist in sponsoring conference speaker costs and workshop programs at the annual professional conference of the Canadian Society of Safety Engineers which is held to keep participants appraised of recent concepts of injury prevention, occupational health, and damage and loss control.

International Medichem Congress on Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry (Phase I): Medichem Calgary'83 Association ($7,500). Completed.

To assist with initial planning costs of the 11th Annual Medichem Congress to be held in Calgary. This congress will provide a forum for the exchange of information concerning occupational health in the chemical industry.

International Medichem Congress on Occupational Health in the Chemical Industry (Phase II): Medichem Calgary'83 Association ($10,000). Completed.

To assist with the second phase of planning of the Medichem Congress (described above).

Comprehensive Review for Industrial Hygiene: Alberta Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association ($9,000). In Progress.

To provide a five day comprehensive review of the industrial hygiene field for practicing hygienists and hygiene technologists. By observing and participating in the review, the Alberta Section members hope to offer a similar program in the future.

TABLE III

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS EXPENDED
FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 1981 — March 31, 1983

	1982-83	1981-82
Legislative Appropriation from Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Amounts Expended		
Manpower	84,473	41,927
Supplies & Services	11,714	12,776
Grants	812,605	177,666
Purchase of Fixed Assets	587	1,040
	909,379	233,409
Unexpended	90,621	766,591